

REMARKS

The Office Action dated August 14, 2003 has been reviewed and the Examiner's comments carefully considered. Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 10 and 11 have been amended. Claim 20 has been added. Claims 1 -20 are now pending and submitted for consideration. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 10, 11, 17 and 20 are independent claims.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that claims 6-9 contain allowable subject matter.

The specification is objected to for incorporating a foreign patent document by reference. However, no amendment is required because the material incorporated by reference is not "essential." Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Figure 4 is objected to. Figure 4 has been amended as requested by the Examiner. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claim 6 is objected to for minor informalities and claims 2, 5-9 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as indefinite. The claims have been amended where appropriate. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 10 and 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,568,663 (Brown). The rejection should be withdrawn, because Brown fails to disclose, teach or suggest the claimed invention. Claims 1 and 10 call for "the projection [to be] configured to move axially within the receiving member prior to mating with the groove." In contrast, col. 4, lines 38-44 of Brown disclose a gas bottle 34 that "is simply screwed into the internally threaded cylindrical stem 26." As shown in Fig. 7, the projections of Brown are not capable of moving axially within the receiving member 24 until after they are screwed into (mated with) the grooves. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

New claim 20 is also allowable over Brown, at least because Brown fails to disclose, teach or suggest an inflator for an airbag module where "the receiving member is configured to communicate with an airbag for a vehicle."

Claim 3 depends from claim 1 and claims 12-16 depend from claim 10 and are, therefore, allowable for at least the reasons set forth above, without regard to the further limitations contained in these dependent claims.

Claims 2, 4, 5, 11, and 15-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Brown in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,544,062 (Loveless). The rejection should be withdrawn because Loveless is not prior art. Applicants intend to rely on the filing date of the priority application JP2001-171276, which was filed on June 6, 2001. An English translation of the priority application is attached hereto. Thus, the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.55 have been met and withdrawal of the rejection is appropriate.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would expedite allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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SHOULD ADDITIONAL FEES BE NECESSARY IN CONNECTION WITH THE FILING OF THIS PAPER, OR IF A PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME IS REQUIRED FOR TIMELY ACCEPTANCE OF SAME, THE COMMISSIONER IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 19-0741 FOR ANY SUCH FEES; AND APPLICANT(S) HEREBY PETITION FOR ANY NEEDED EXTENSION OF TIME.